

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, dated November 29, 2004, the examiner allowed claims 42-72, rejected claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-18, 21-30, 32, 34, 40, and 75-77, and objected to claims 19, 20, 31 and 33. On April 19, 2005, the applicant's attorney, James Young, had an interview with the examiner. While no agreement was reached, all the claims and the prior art Shaker et al. article were discussed and the applicant's attorney did get a clearer understanding of the examiner's reasons for rejecting the claims indicated above. The applicant and applicant's attorney appreciate the examiner's time, courtesy, and helpful discussion during the interview.

In response, the applicant has now amended the allowable subject matter of claims 31 and 33 into independent claims 1 and 32, respectively, so independent claims 1 and 32 should now be allowable.

Claims 19 and 20 are amended to clarify the multiple dependency, as suggested by the examiner. Also, the spelling error in claim 42 is corrected, as suggested by the examiner.

Independent claims 75 and 76 are amended to include additional language to distinguish the claimed invention over Shaker et al. and to bring out the criticality of these distinctions, which the applicant believes will overcome the previous rejection of these claims. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification, paragraphs [0023], [0024], and [0025]. To summarize, as explained in paragraph [0023], if two separate probes, each having a pH sensor, are used with multiple recorders, each recorder logging data or signals received from one of the respective pH sensors, as is taught in Shaker et al., then the streams of data from the two recorders with their mutually independently recorded time lines have to be spliced together in some manner to enable analysis of the two independent sets of data together over the time of the monitoring procedure. Such independent data gathering and splicing together is not only too complex and difficult to use for most physician staff members, but is also susceptible to errors and inaccuracies. As also explained in paragraph [0023], the applicant's claimed invention overcomes these problems by

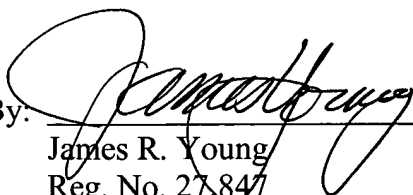
using a single recorder to record data from all the sensors, as well as from user input event markers if desired, so that all of the pH data and other markers are synchronized and integrated with a common time clock and recorded in that manner. As further explained in paragraph [0024], this synchronized and integrated recording can be accomplished by multiplexing the signals from the different sensors for synchronized delivery to a microprocessor for processing and recording the synchronized data with time signals from a timer circuit, so all of the data from all of the sensors are recorded on a common time line, not on multiple, independent time lines that then have to be combined or spliced together in some manner. The same time line is a short way of saying that the data from the sensors is recorded with time inputs from the same timer circuit.

The user input event markers, which can also be recorded by the single recorder on the same time line, as mentioned above, are recited in dependent claims 77-84. Also, the common connector limitation is deleted from claims 75 and 76, because it is not necessary for those claims.

SUMMARY

All of the currently pending claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons explained above. Therefore, the examiner is requested to reconsider his previous rejections and to grant an early allowance. If any issues remain to be resolved, the examiner is requested to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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